

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image storing apparatus, comprising:
  - an image capturing device which captures an image;
  - an image storing device which stores the image captured by the image capturing device;
  - a customer information storing device which stores customer information;
  - a receiving device which receives image selection information indicating that the image to be stored is selected; and
  - an image management information storing device which stores image management information associating the image stored in the image storing device and indicated by the image selection information received by the receiving device with the customer information stored in the customer information storing device.
2. The image storing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:
  - the receiving device receives image attribute information indicating an attribute of the image as one piece of the image selection information; and
  - the image management information storing device stores the image stored in the image storing device and indicated by the image attribute information received by the receiving device by associating the image with the image attribute information and the customer information stored in the customer information storing device.
3. The image storing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image storing device and the image management information storing device are the same database.
4. The image storing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:
  - an image storing period measuring device which measures a storing period of the image; and
  - a notifying device which, when the storing period measured by the image storing period measuring device passes a predetermined period, notifies the customer of the image so as to prompt input of one of the image selection information and image attribute information.

5. The image storing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein when the receiving device receives none of the image selection information and the image attribute information within the predetermined period from the notification, the image storing device deletes the image which is a subject of the notification.
6. The image storing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:  
a usage charge calculating device which calculates a usage charge according to a using area and a storing period of the image stored in the image storing device; and  
a usage charge notifying device which notifies the customer of the usage charge calculated by the usage charge calculating device.
7. The image storing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein, in the case where a charge is not paid within a predetermined period after the notice of the usage charge is given by the usage charge notifying device, at least one of the image storing device and the image management information storing device prohibits the customer in arrears from getting access.
8. The image storing apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising:  
a point calculating device which calculates points according to a storing area and a storing period of the image stored in the image storing device; and  
a point storing device which accumulatively stores the points calculated by the point calculating device for each customer.
9. The image storing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:  
a receiving device which receives customer reading authorization information indicating that the customer has authorized the customer information to be read; and  
a sending device which reads the customer information corresponding to the customer reading authorization information received by the receiving device from the customer information storing device and sends the read customer information to another customer.
10. The image storing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:  
a receiving device which receives image usage authorization information authorizing usage of the image,

wherein at least one of the image storing device and the image management information storing device authorizes a third party to access the image indicated by the image usage authorization information received by the receiving device and prohibits the third party from accessing any information other than the image indicated by the received image usage authorization information.

11. The image storing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a classified information storing device which stores classified information having classified the images stored in the image storing device according to at least one of the customer information and the image attribute information; and

a receiving device which receives classified reading authorization information authorizing the images belonging to a predetermined classification to be read,

wherein at least one of the image storing device and the classified information storing device authorizes a third party to access the image belonging to the classification indicated by the classified reading authorization information received by the receiving device and prohibits the third party from accessing any image belonging to any classification other than the one indicated by the received classified reading authorization information.

12. The image storing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a date timing device which times the current date;

an event analyzing device which analyzes an event related to the customer based on at least one of the customer information and the image attribute information stored in the image management information storing device; and

an event notifying device which, when the current date timed by the date timing device is within a predetermined period before the date of the event analyzed by the event analyzing device, gives notice of the event analyzed by the event analyzing device.

13. The image storing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a receiving device which receives image output destination information identifying the image, an output location of the image and a record medium for the image;

a sending device which reads the image identified by the image output destination information from the image storing device based on the image output destination information

received by the receiving device, and sends the read image to a record medium recording apparatus placed in an output location identified by the image output destination information and recording data on the record medium indicated by the image output destination information.

14. An image storing system, comprising:

a plurality of terminal units, each of which comprises:

an image selecting device which selects the image to be stored; and

a sending device which sends the image selected by the image selecting

device and image selection information indicating the image; and

an image storing apparatus comprising:

an image capturing device which captures the image sent from the terminal

unit;

an image storing device which stores the image captured by the image

capturing device;

a customer information storing device which stores customer information;

a receiving device which receives image selection information sent from the

terminal unit; and

an image management information storing device which stores image

management information associating the image stored in the image storing device and

indicated by image selection information received by the receiving device with the customer information stored in the customer information storing device.

15. The image storing system according to claim 14, wherein:

the sending device of the terminal unit sends image attribute information indicating an attribute of the image as one piece of the image selection information;

the receiving device of the image storing apparatus receives the image attribute information from the terminal unit as one piece of the image selection information; and

the image management information storing device of the image storing apparatus stores the image stored in the image storing device and indicated by the image attribute information received by the receiving device by associating the image with the image attribute information and the customer information stored in the customer information storing device.

16. The image storing system according to claim 14, wherein the image storing apparatus further comprises:

an image storing period measuring device which measures a storing period of the image; and

a notifying device which, when the storing period measured by the image storing period measuring device passes a predetermined period, notifying the customer of the image so as to prompt input of at least one of the image selection information and image attribute information.

17. The image storing system according to claim 16, wherein when the receiving device receives none of the image selection information and the image attribute information within the predetermined period from the notification, the image storing device of the image storing apparatus deletes the image which is a subject of the notification.

18. The image storing system according to claim 14, wherein the image storing apparatus further comprises:

a calculating device which calculates a usage charge according to a storing area and a storing period of the image stored in the image storing device; and

a notifying device which notifies the customer of the usage charge calculated by the calculating device.

19. The image storing system according to claim 18, wherein, in the case where a charge is not paid within a predetermined period after the notice is given by the usage charge notifying device, at least one of the image storing device and the image management information storing device of the image storing apparatus prohibits the customer in arrears from getting access.

20. The image storing system according to claim 19, wherein the image storing apparatus further comprises:

a point calculating device which calculates points according to a storing area and a storing period of the image stored in the image storing device; and

a point storing device which accumulatively stores the points calculated by the point calculating device for each customer.

21. The image storing system according to claim 14, wherein:

the terminal unit further comprises:

an input device which inputs customer reading authorization information indicating that the customer has authorized the customer information to be read; and

a sending device which sends the customer reading authorization information inputted by the input device; and

the image storing apparatus further comprises:

a receiving device which receives the customer reading authorization information sent from the terminal unit; and

a sending device which reads customer information indicated by the customer reading authorization information received by the receiving device and sends the read customer information to another customer.

22. The image storing system according to claim 14, wherein:

the terminal unit further comprises:

an input device which inputs image usage authorization information indicating usage authorization of the image; and

a sending device which sends the image usage authorization information inputted by the input device; and

the image storing apparatus further comprises a receiving device which receives the image usage authorization information sent from the terminal unit; and

at least one of the image storing device and the image management information storing device authorizes a third party to access the image indicated by the image usage authorization information received by the receiving device and prohibits the third party from accessing any image other than the image indicated by the image usage authorization information.

23. The image storing system according to claim 14, wherein:

the image storing apparatus further comprises:

a classified information storing device which stores classified information having classified the images stored in the image storing device according to at least one of the customer information and the image attribute information; and

a receiving device which receives classified reading authorization information authorizing the images belonging to a predetermined classification to be read; and

at least one of the image storing device and the classified information storing device authorizes a third party to access the image belonging to the classification indicated by the classified reading authorization information received by the receiving device and prohibits the third party from accessing any image belonging to any classification other than the one indicated by the received classified reading authorization information.

24. The image storing system according to claim 14, wherein:

the image storing apparatus further comprises:

a date timing device which times the current date;

an event analyzing device which analyzes an event related to the customer based on at least one of the customer information and the image attribute information stored in the image management information storing device; and

an event notifying device which, when the current date timed by the date timing device is within a predetermined period before the date of the event analyzed by the event analyzing device, gives notice of the event analyzed by the event analyzing device.

25. The image storing system according to claim 14, wherein:

the terminal unit further comprises:

an input device which inputs image output destination information identifying the image, an output location of the image and a record medium for the image; and

a sending device which sends the image output destination information inputted by the input device; and

the image storing apparatus further comprises:

a receiving device which receives the image output destination information sent from the terminal unit; and

an image sending device which reads the image identified by the image output destination information from the image storing device based on the image output

destination information received by the receiving device and sends the read image to a record medium recording apparatus placed in an output location identified by the image output destination information and recording data on the record medium indicated by the image output destination information.

26. The image storing system according to claim 14, wherein:

the terminal unit further comprises:

an image reading device which reads the image recorded on a film;

an image processing device which performs predetermined image processing to the image read by the image reading device; and

a printing device which prints the image image-processed by the image processing device; and

the image sending device sends the image image-processed by the image processing device to the image storing apparatus.

27. A terminal unit, comprising:

an image selecting device which selects an image to be stored; and

a sending device which sends the image selected by the image selecting device and image selection information indicating the image.

28. The terminal unit according to claim 27, wherein the sending device sends image attribute information indicating an attribute of the image as one piece of the image selection information.

29. The terminal unit according to claim 27, further comprising:

an input device which inputs customer reading authorization information indicating that the customer has authorized the customer information to be read; and

a sending device which sends the customer reading authorization information inputted by the input device.

30. The terminal unit according to claim 27, further comprising:

an input device which inputs image usage authorization information indicating usage



authorization of the image; and

a sending device which sends the image usage authorization information inputted by the input device.

31. The terminal unit according to claim 27, further comprising:

an input device which inputs output destination information identifying the image, an output location of the image and a record medium for the image; and

a sending device which sends the image output destination information inputted by the input device.

32. The terminal unit according to claim 27, further comprising:

an image reading device which reads the image recorded on a film;

an image processing device which performs predetermined image processing to the image read by the image reading device; and

a printing device which prints the image image-processed by the image processing device,

wherein the sending device sends the image image-processed by the image processing device.

33. An image storing apparatus having a recording device which records an image uploaded from a customer side, the apparatus comprising:

a receiving device which receives the image from a communication apparatus on the customer side;

a recording device which records the received image;

a determining device which determines whether or not to move the image recorded on the recording device to a record medium by comparing at least one of the capacity, quantity, recording period and a current date thereof recorded on the recording device to corresponding at least one of predetermined thresholds; and

a moving device which moves the image recorded on the recording device to the record medium based on results of the determination.

34. The image storing apparatus according to claim 33, wherein:

the receiving device receives from a customer-side communication apparatus image movement acknowledgement information for acknowledging the images to be moved from the recording device to the record medium; and

the moving device moves the image recorded on the recording device to the record medium based on the image movement acknowledgement information received from the customer-side communication apparatus and the determination results.

35. The image storing apparatus according to claim 33, wherein:

the receiving device receives from the customer-side communication apparatus payment information for paying a purchase price of the record medium having recorded the moved image; and

the moving device moves the image recorded on the recording device to the record medium based on the payment information received from the customer-side communication apparatus and the determination results.

36. The image storing apparatus according to claim 33, wherein:

the receiving device receives from the customer-side communication apparatus record medium type information for identifying the type of the record medium; and

the moving device moves the image recorded on the recording device to the identified record medium based on the record medium type information received from the customer-side communication apparatus.

37. The image storing apparatus according to claim 33, further comprising a printing device which prints at least one of a name of the image and a reduced image recorded on the record medium on at least one of a list and a label to be affixed to the record medium.

38. The image storing apparatus according to claim 33, further comprising a delivery device which delivers the record medium to the customer side.

39. The image storing apparatus according to claim 33, wherein the recording device does not duplicately record the same image as that already recorded on the recording device.

40. The image storing apparatus according to claim 33, wherein the moving device does not duplicately move the same image as that already moved to the record medium.

41. An image storing program which runs on an image storing apparatus having a recording device which records an image uploaded from a customer side, wherein:

the image storing apparatus comprises:

a receiving device which receives the image;

a recording device which records the image;

a determining device which determines whether or not to move the image recorded on the recording device to a record medium by comparing information of the image recorded on the recording device to a predetermined threshold;

a moving device which moves the image recorded on the recording device to the record medium based on results of the determination; and

an information processing device which controls the receiving device, the recording device, the determining device and the moving device; and

the program implements to the information processing device:

a function in which the receiving device receives the image from a customer-side communication apparatus;

a function in which the recording device records the received image;

a function in which the determining device determines whether or not to move the image recorded on the recording device to the record medium by comparing at least one of capacity, quantity, a recording period and a current date thereof recorded on the recording device to corresponding at least one of predetermined thresholds; and

a function in which the moving device moves the image recorded on the recording device to the record medium based on results of the determination.

42. An image storing method in an image storing apparatus having a recording device which records an image uploaded from a customer side, wherein:

the image storing apparatus comprises:

a receiving device which receives the image;

a recording device which records the image;

a determining device which determines whether or not to move the image to

a record medium by comparing information of the image recorded on the recording device to a predetermined threshold; and

a moving device which moves the image to the record medium based on results of the determination; and

the method comprises:

a step in which the receiving device receives the image from a customer-side communication apparatus;

a step in which the recording device records the received image;

a step in which the determining device determines whether or not to move the image recorded on the recording device to the record medium by comparing at least one of capacity, quantity, recording period and a current date thereof recorded on the recording device to corresponding one of predetermined thresholds; and

a step in which the moving device moves the image recorded on the recording device to the record medium based on results of the determination.

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